

Message Text

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FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1279
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2050

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, PEPR, PING, CH, VN
SUBJ: OBSERVATIONS ON SINO-VIETNAMESE SITUATION IN KWANGSI AND
KWANGTUNG

1. USLO OFFICER WAS ESCORT FOR CSCPRC RURAL HEALTH DELEGATION THAT SPENT THREE DAYS (JUNE 24-26) IN AND AROUND NANNING, KWANGSI (ABOUT 100 MILES FROM SINO-VIETNAMESE BORDER) AND FIVE DAYS (JUNE 27-JULY 1) IN AND AROUND CANTON. IN ADDITION, THE DELEGATION WAS TAKEN TO HENGHSIEN, KWANGSI (A THREE HOUR CAR TRIP, 60 MILES SOUTHEAST OF NANNING) FOR AN OVERNIGHT STAY AND TO HSINHUI HSIEN IN KWANGTUNG FOR A TWO DAY VISIT. NO WALL POSTERS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT THE SINO-VIETNAMESE SITUATION WERE OBSERVED IN EITHER KWANGSI OR KWANGTUNG. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE A FEW SIGNS OF POSSIBLE INCREASED MILITARY ACTIVITY, THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE APPEARED QUITE RELAXED IN CONTRAST TO THE ANTI-VIETNAMESE POLEMICS APPEARING IN THE CHINESE PRESS.

2. ON THE TRAIN FROM KWEILIN TO NANNING USLO OFFICER AND OTHER DELEGATION MEMBERS OBSERVED ONE TRAIN ON THE OPPOSITE TRACK WITH ABOUT TEN FLAT CARS CONTAINING CAMOUFLAGED TANKS AND ARTILLERY.
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MILITIA WAS OBSERVED IN TRAINING AND ON MARCHES IN BOTH HENGHSIEN, KWANGSI AND HSINHUI HSIEN, KWANGTUNG. THE ACTIVITY SEEMED ONLY MODERATELY MORE PREVALENT THAN THAT SEEN FROM TIME TO TIME IN ALL PARTS OF CHINA.

3. AT A BANQUET IN NANNING A YOUNG OFFICIAL FROM THE KWANGSI FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE VOLUNTEERED A STANDARD AND BLUNT CONDEMNATION

OF SOVIET EXPANSIONISM AND INTERFERENCE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. HE WENT ON TO ATTACK VIETNAMESE POLICIES THAT HE CLAIMED HAD BEEN INFLUENCED BY THE SOVIET UNION AND THAT WERE NOW RESPONSIBLE FOR CURRENT SINO-VIETNAMESE DIFFICULTIES. WHILE THIS WAS PRESENTED FORCEFULLY, HE SAID IT CALMLY AND DID NOT PURSUE IT AT LENGTH. AS FAR AS USLO OFFICER IS AWARE, THIS IS THE ONLY TIME THE SUBJECT CAME UP DURING THE DELEGATION'S STAY IN SOUTH CHINA. WOODCOCK

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